

In re Application of CAMARA et al.
Application No. 09/837,767

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring an image from an imaging source device to a destination in a computer system having more than one possible destination for the images, where at least two of the possible destinations are alternative hardware devices, the method comprising:

acquiring the image from the imaging source device with a still image processing layer comprising at least one programmatic object corresponding to the imaging source device and an imaging source device manager object;

selecting one of the possible destinations at a user interface; and
automatically transferring the acquired image to the selected destination in response to the selection.

2. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically transferring the image includes storing the image on a hard drive of the computer system before it is delivered to the selected destination .

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the destination is selected from a group of possible destinations comprising a printer, a CD-write device, a web site, and an email recipient.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring an image from an imaging source device to a destination in a computer system having more than one

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possible destination for the images, where at least two of the possible destinations are alternative hardware devices, the method comprising:

registering at least one plug-in module, each registered plug-in module corresponding to at least one possible destination;

obtaining data from each registered plug-in module indicating the at least one possible destination to which the registered plug-in module corresponds, wherein the data indicating the at least one possible destination comprises text and at least one icon;

displaying a user interface menu, the user interface menu comprising the data indicating the at least one possible destination obtained from each registered plug-in module;

prompting a user with the user interface menu to select one of the possible destinations to which the image is to be transferred;

storing the image on a computer-readable medium; and

automatically transferring the image from the computer-readable medium to the selected destination in response to the user selection.

10. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 9.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the computer-readable medium is a hard disk of the computer or a removable memory.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the destination is selected from a group of possible destinations comprising a web site, a printer, a removable memory device, and an email recipient.

14-16. (Canceled)

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17. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring an image from an imaging source device connected to a computer system to a storage site on a network identified by a network browser running on the computer system, the method comprising:
acquiring the image from the imaging source device with a still image processing layer, which comprises at least one programmatic object corresponding to the imaging source device and an imaging source device manager object;
receiving a user selection representing a desire to transfer the acquired image to one of the storage sites;
storing the acquired image on a computer-readable medium; and
automatically transferring the acquired image from the computer-readable medium to the storage site in response to the selection.

18. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 17.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the imaging source device is a digital camera or a scanner.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
loading a plug-in module adapted to transferring the image to the selected storage site.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
presenting the user with a plurality of destinations for the image, the plurality including site at an on-line web community, wherein the loaded plug-in module is one of a plurality of plug-in modules, wherein each plug-in module is adapted to transfer the image from the imaging source device to a particular destination and is loadable by the image helper program in response to the selected destination.

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23. (Currently Amended) A system for transferring an image from an imaging source device to a destination in a computer system having more than one possible destination for the images, where at least two of the possible destinations are alternative storage devices, the system comprising:

- a computer having a computer-readable medium;
- an imaging source device for providing ~~a video~~ an image to the computer; and
- a still imaging processing layer for acquiring the image from the imaging source device, which comprises at least one programmatic object corresponding to the imaging source device and an imaging source device manager object;
- a user interface for selecting one of the possible destinations; and
- an image helper program module executing on the computer, wherein the image helper program module is operable to automatically transfer the acquired image from the imaging source device to the selected destination in response the selection from the user interface.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 further comprising: a plug-in module adapted to transfer the image from the imaging source device to the selected destination, wherein the image helper program module loads the plug-in module in response to the selected destination.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the image helper program module includes a standard application programming interface through which the plug-in module communicates.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, further comprising: a plurality of plug-in modules, wherein each plug-in module is adapted to automatically transfer the image from the imaging source device to the selected destination, and wherein, in response to the selection, the image helper program module loads the plug-in module for the selected destination.

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27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon:

an image helper program for receiving a user selection on a computer system having more than one possible destination to which an image originating from an imaging source device is to be sent, where at least two of the possible destinations are alternative storage devices, and wherein the image helper program includes a programming interface; and

at least one plug-in, each plug-in associated with the selected a possible destination and configured to register with the programming interface of the image helper program, wherein the plug-in associated with the selected destination is invoked by the image helper program upon receiving the user selection of the destination and communicates with the image helper program via the programming interface to transfer the image from the imaging source device to the selected destination;

the image helper program including instructions to (a) obtain from each registered plug-in data indicating the possible destination with which the plug-in is associated, where the data indicating the possible destination comprises text and at least one icon; and (b) display a menu of possible destinations for user selection, where the menu comprises the data indicating the possible destination obtained from each plug-in module.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising: a still-image processing layer, wherein still-image processing layer represents the imaging source device to the image helper program to facilitate the transfer of the image from the imaging source device to the destination.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for transferring an image from an imaging source device to a destination in a computer system having more than one possible destination for the images, where at least two of the possible destinations are alternative storage devices, the method comprising:
registering at least one plug-in module, each plug-in module corresponding to at least one possible destination;

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obtaining data from each registered plug-in module indicating the at least one possible destination to which the plug-in module corresponds, where the data includes text and at least one icon;

displaying a user interface menu, the user interface menu comprising the data indicating the at least one possible destination obtained from each plug-in module;

selecting at least one of the possible destinations at a from the user interface menu;
loading, in response to the selection, a the at least one plug-in module
corresponding to the at least one selected destination in response to the selection; and
automatically transferring the image to the at least one selected destination using
with the at least one loaded plug-in module.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 further comprising storing the image on the hard drive of the computer system in preparation for transfer to the at least one selected destination.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 wherein the at least one destination is selected from a group of possible destinations comprising a printer, a CD-write device, a web site, and an email recipient.

32-34. (Canceled)

35. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the still image processing layer further comprises:

an imaging source device query object that enables the imaging source device manager object to query imaging source device properties; and

a programmatic object enabling enumeration of available imaging source devices, the enumeration comprising an imaging source device query object instance for each available imaging source device.

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36. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the imaging source device manager object enables instantiation of a programmatic object enabling enumeration of available imaging source devices.

37. (New). The method of claim 1, further comprising:
registering at least one plug-in module, each plug-in module corresponding to a possible destination;
obtaining data from each plug-in module indicating the possible destination to which the plug-in module corresponds, where the data includes text and at least one icon;
and
displaying a user interface, the user interface comprising the data indicating the possible destination obtained from each plug-in module.

38. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein each plug-in module corresponds to one possible destination.

39. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein automatically transferring the image to the at least one selected destination with the at least one loaded plug-in module comprises displaying a destination-specific user interface to collect destination-specific information.

40. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein registering each plug-in module comprises registering each plug-in module with a standardized programming interface of an image helper program.

41. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein obtaining data indicating the at least one possible destination from each plug-in module comprises obtaining data indicating the at least one possible destination with a standardized programming interface of the plug-in module.

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42. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising acquiring the image from the imaging source device with a still image processing layer, the still image processing layer comprising:

at least one imaging source device object; and
an imaging source device manager object.